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Les Institutions Politiques de l'Allemagne Contemporaine. By JOSEPH-BARTHÉLEMY, Professeur Agrégé à la Faculté de Droit de Paris, Professeur à l'École Libre des Sciences Politiques. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. 1915. Pp. 267.)

This little book by a distinguished French scholar contains what is probably the most incisive analysis of the real German government that has been published. It demonstrates in an admirable degree how impossible it is to gain an adequate knowledge of the actual character of the government and political institutions of a country from a mere study of the formal texts of laws and constitutions. Professor Barthélemy goes back of the written constitutions of the German Empire and of the states which compose it and gives us a picture of the government as it actually is and as it works in practice. In successive chapters he shows: (1) that neither the imperial government nor those of the states are truly democratic; (2) that there is no true constitutional régime in Germany; (3) that the parliamentary or cabinet system has no existence either in the imperial organization or in those of the states; and (4) that the Germans are really not a free people.

As evidence of his first proposition he shows how, by means of the three-class system of suffrage, the high age qualification for voting, the exclusion of persons who receive public relief, the system of weighted voting, the holding of the elections on week days, the archaic system of open public voting and the gross inequality of electoral districts—political power is kept in the hands of the wealthy classes. Many interesting statistics are produced to show how grossly unfair and undemocratic the whole system is in practice. There is no true constitutional government in Prussia, he says, because the constitution was not made by the people and such limitations as it imposes upon the government are not enforceable. There is no parliamentary régime because the ministers are merely the creatures, agents and instruments of the crown, and are not responsible to parliament for their political acts or policies. Under the peculiar doctrine which prevails in Germany regarding the nature of the budget the legislature does not even have control over appropriations and expenditures. Finally, there is no liberty in Germany, as the term is understood in other countries. The liberty of the press is reduced to a sham by the doctrine of *lèse-majesté*. The liberty of meeting is similarly restricted by the famous *sprachen paragraph* in the law of assembly which requires the proceedings of all public political meetings (except during the electoral period) to be conducted

in the German language, the effect of which is virtually to prohibit such meetings in Poland, Alsace-Lorraine and Schleswig-Holstein. There is no freedom of teaching since private schools are hardly tolerated. In 1911 there were only 480 such schools in all the empire.

Altogether, M. Barthélemy's analysis of German political institutions is both interesting and convincing. It ought to be translated into English and made available for the use of American students generally. It contains evidence in abundance to substantiate the frequent charges made by President Wilson in his addresses that the real German government is an autocracy and that the Prussian is "a natural enemy of liberty."

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The French Assembly of 1848 and American Constitutional Doctrines. By EUGENE NEWTON CURTIS, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Modern European History at Goucher College. (Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, LXXIX, No. 2. New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1918. Pp. 357.)

This book in the main represents an attempt to trace the influence of American institutions and political ideas upon the French between 1789 and 1850, and especially upon the framers of the republican constitution of 1848. As a sort of background for his study the author starts out with an introductory chapter on Europe and America in 1848 in which he contrasts the political and economic conditions of the United States and France and attempts to evaluate the influence of the American Constitution upon France prior to 1848. He admits that Franklin (who had a collection of American constitutions published in France), Jefferson, and especially Lafayette exerted some influence upon the early constitutional development of France; but his conclusion that American influence was very slight is probably a sound one. Between 1830 and 1848, however, this influence was more marked. Coming to the revolution of 1848 and the work of the national assembly which framed the constitution of that year, the author calls attention to the sympathy which the establishment of the republic elicited in America as shown by the congratulatory resolutions passed by both houses of Congress, the adoption of addresses of felicitation by various bodies and the frequent references in Fourth of July orations of that year to the overthrow of the